

CLAIMS

1. Use of a viscosity modulating polymer material as a tooth erosion inhibitor in an acidic composition for oral administration wherein the effective pH of the composition is less than or equal to 4.5.
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2. Use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the viscosity modulating polymer is a complex polysaccharide material.
- 10 3. Use as claimed in claim 2 wherein the complex polysaccharide material is an alginate, a xanthan or a pectin.
4. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the effective pH of the composition is from 2.0 to 4.5.
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5. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the acidulant comprises citric acid, malic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, phosphoric acid, acetic acid or mixtures thereof.
- 20 6. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the acidic composition contains a calcium compound such that calcium is present in the composition in an amount up to 0.8 mol per mol of acid.
7. Use as claimed in claim 6 wherein the calcium source is a soluble calcium salt.
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8. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the acidic composition is a beverage or a liquid or solid concentrate for the preparation of a beverage.
9. Use as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage is a health drink.
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10. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the acidic composition is an oral healthcare product.

11. Use as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage has a pH in the range 2.5 to 4.0.
- 5 12. Use as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage has a titratable acidity in the range 0.01 to 4%w/w.
- 10 13. A method of reducing the tooth erosion potential of an acidic composition for oral use comprising adding a viscosity modulating polymer material, and optionally calcium in the range 0 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid, to an acidic oral composition and, if necessary or desired, controlling the effective pH so that it is less than or equal to 4.5.
- 15 14. A method of reducing tooth erosion caused by acid in orally administered compositions by orally administering a composition comprising a viscosity modulating polymer material and an acidulant, and optionally containing calcium in the range 0 to 0.8 mol per mol or acid, wherein the effective pH of the composition is less than or equal to 4.5.
- 20 15. The use of a composition comprising a viscosity modulating polymer material and an acidulant, optionally containing calcium in the range 0 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid, and having a pH less than or equal to 4.5, in the manufacture of a medicament for the reduction of tooth erosion caused by acid in orally administered compositions.
- 25 16. A composition for oral use comprising an acidulant, a viscosity modulating polymer material and a calcium compound wherein calcium is present in the composition in an amount up to 0.8 mol per mol of acid and the effective pH of the composition is less than or equal to 4.5.
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